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CHATS ON THE ATOMIC WEAPON

Translated by F. J. Krieger

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RED STAR

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This is a translation of an article which appeared in a recent issue of Red Star, the central organ of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR. It deals with the conduct of troops under atomic warfare conditions, ~~and should be of interest to a wide circle of readers.~~ ↑

F. J. Krieger

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From the Latest Mail

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### CHATS ON THE ATOMIC WEAPON<sup>\*</sup>

Under the title "'Chats with Soldiers and Sergeants'" the newspaper of the Moscow military district Krasny Voin<sup>\*\*</sup> is publishing [a series of] articles which explain the properties of the atomic weapon and the rules of conduct of soldiers under the conditions of its application.

Of particular interest is the article "'Conduct under Conditions of the Application of the Atomic Weapon'" by Lieutenant-Colonel A. Novgorodov. Therein it is demonstrated that to the brave and able soldier the atomic weapon is not terrifying.

Success in battle, in the final analysis, is decided by people strong in spirit, who have perfect control of the technique and the weapon.

The article gives useful advice. First of all, the soldier, hearing the atomic alert signal, must carefully follow the orders and the signals of the commanding officer which will indicate the most expedient mode of action. At the same time the soldier must know how to evaluate the situation quickly in order to carry out, with initiative, the order of the commanding officer.

"In the offensive, - writes the paper, - headlong contact with the enemy is the best mode of action on hearing the atomic alert signal because the closer the battle array of the advancing unit is to him, the smaller is the probability of the use of the atomic weapon by the enemy.

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\* Krasnaya Zvezda, 3 July 1954, p. 2.

\*\* Red Warrior

Hence, on hearing the order of the commanding officer to advance, one should quickly, exerting all his strength and skillfully making use of the locality, move in and out to the indicated line. During the advance it is necessary [for the soldier] to open fire on the enemy, thus giving help to his comrades."

It may happen that during the encounter with the enemy, he will, nevertheless, use the atomic weapon. In such a case the soldier must correctly and opportunely utilize the protective properties of various local objects, shell-holes, ditches, embankments. Immediately after the explosion, the soldier gets his weapons ready for shooting and resumes the careful observation of the enemy. If the enemy undertakes the attack, the main task of the soldier is to destroy the attackers.

The author of the article warns that, as a result of an atomic explosion, the locality will be contaminated with radioactive substances. To conduct a battle in such a locality is considerably more difficult than under ordinary conditions. Even this, however, is accessible for military action, if the soldier is well prepared, smart and courageous. By making use of the individual means of antichemical protection and using his cloak-tent or bedding from improvised materials while lying down and digging-in, he can advance successfully. In like manner, the article tells how the soldier must act in overcoming a locality contaminated with radioactive substances on foot and by the use of mobile means (by armored tank, armored carrier, truck).

The valuable initiative of the newspaper Krasny Voin, its experience in the popular explanation of the possible conditions under which soldiers will have to act in modern combat, deserves every kind of approval and support.